

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

February 21, 2006

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Roy.

Mayor Guinta stated please observe a moment of silent prayer and keep in your thoughts and your prayers Mayor Baines and his family as his sister had passed away today.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Alderman Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith and Forest.

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Renee Young, 76 Island Pond Road, Manchester, NH and Brian Christiansen, Comcast (Re: Library partnership):

Mr. Christiansen stated we were invited here by David Scannell of the School Department to talk about one of the programs that I think Mayor Guinta was at last week and it's reading for the schools. I have a prepared statement and I'm going to keep to my two minutes, I promise. I know you folks have a long evening. Good evening, my name is Brian Christiansen and I'm Manager of Government and Community Relations for Comcast here on East Industrial Drive and Island Pond Road. With me is Renee Young, Manager of Finance for Comcast. We are here tonight to share with you and the people of Manchester an announcement about our company's participation in the Barnes and Noble Partnership with the Manchester School District. It's an initiative to help the school libraries acquire

books. Mayor Guinta as you know from your participation in the kick-off event at Beech Street School last week Barnes and Noble have teamed up to provide each school library with \$7,500 worth of titles and have reached out to the business community for assistance. Tonight we are proud to announce that Comcast will contribute \$2,600 to this program and we will for the second year in a row send scores of employees to read in all elementary schools to actually 4,500. We will send approximately 120 employees out of the Manchester office. Our target is kindergarten through third grade classes. Mayor, as you are also aware from your experience at Beech Street last week reading to students is a wonderful experience. Last year our employees who took part in that and returned to work with a renewed sense of energy and a more accurate picture of public education in the city and a determination to connect the corporate world with the lives of kids in the community and we can't wait to return again. We are very excited about joining with the schools and with Barnes and Noble to give students the gift of reading. It is one of Comcast's commitments to give back to the communities we serve. Our employees live and work in town and many have young students that attend your schools. Last year my son came home and told me all about the Comcast employee that went to read to his class. We hope other business in the city have received information about the Library Drive in recent days and we encourage them to respond to request for assistance. And, finally, we invite any Alderman who wants to come to a class and read with a Comcast employee or certainly on your own you don't need my invitation to call Dave Scannell at the School District, let him know of your availability and he'll assign you to the class you like. We have also done a bookmark about what we're going to leave behind...it does have the Comcast tag line but very small and we're going to leave it behind to all 4,500 students.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk